

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-25 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 NEAE-00 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

FEA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /120 W
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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1892

INFO USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: LOCAL COVERAGE OF GEN. GOODPASTER INTERVIEW

REF: THESSALONIKI 0202 (NOTAL)

1. THESSALONIKI PRESS OF APRIL 19 GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO RECENT INTERVIEW OF GEN. GOODPASTER WITH CHR. LAMPOS. WHILE MORNING DAILIES PRINT FULL TEXT, TREATMENT IN NATIONALISTIC "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" GIVES SPECIAL EMPHASIS TO GENERAL'S REFERENCES TO AEGEAN AND GREEK ISLANDS.

2. LATTER PAPER CARRIES FRONTPAGE PHOTO OF GENERAL AND BANNER HEADLINE, STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF GREEK AEGEAN AND ISLANDS EMPHASIZED BY SUPREME NATO COMMANDER". LEAD PARAGRAPH REPORTS THAT GEN. GOODPASTER "CLEARLY RECOGNIZES SIGNIFICANCE OF GREEK AEGEAN IN WESTERN DEFENCE". GENERAL'S STATEMENT FURTHER DESCRIBED AS CONSISTENT WITH "WORLD RECOGNITION THAT AEGEAN IS ENTIRELY GREEK

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ARCHIPELAGO AND ITS DEFENCE RESTS IN GREEK HANDS". OTHER

REFERENCES TO ROLE OF AEGEAN CARRIED IN ITALICS.

3. "MAKEDONIA" TREATMENT OF INTERVIEW RESTRICTED TO TEXT
AND FACTUAL REPORT ON INSIDE PAGES.

4. COMMENT: APPARENT DISTORTION OF GOODPASTER REMARKS
BY "VORRAS" CONSISTENT WITH PAPER'S NATIONALISTIC POSITION
ON CURRENT GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE OVER OIL EXPLORATION RIGHTS
IN AEGEAN (REF). PAPER HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OUTSPOKEN IN
ADVOCATING HARDLINE POSITION THAT AEGEAN IS "GREEK LAKE"
AND TURKISH CLAIMS UNFOUNDED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, MILITARY VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THESSA00206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740091-1022
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740427/aaaaaycl.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: THESSALONIKI 0202 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL COVERAGE OF GEN. GOODPASTER INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GR, US, (GOODPASTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005